



## Message from the Executive Director



**Mr Mark Harrison**  
Executive Director -  
Manchester and Liverpool

Another week gone already! The excitement is rising in the building as we enter the last phase of preparation for the school show next week. If you have not yet done so, I would ask you show your support by buying some tickets and coming to see our students perform Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Our students have been working so hard rehearsing that I am sure it will be a fantastic performance, I hope to see you there.

As we continue to raise standards across the academy I would like to ask for your support as we apply our usual rules around mobile phones in the building. I understand that many parents will want their child to have a phone with them for safety reasons to and from the building, but it must be off and away at all times in school. If a child has a phone in school, unless they have an agreed exception, it must not be seen at any time. If seen it will be placed into the school safe until the end of the day. If your child needs to speak to you urgently then they should speak to staff; if you need to make contact with your child through the school day then please phone the academy office. The reason for our rules is about keeping your child safe, happy and learning in school. Sadly, mobile phones are at the centre of many issues facing young people today across the country, through access to social media pressures, bullying and general over reliance. Please speak to your child, remind them of the expectation ahead of next week and support us in ensuring a safe environment for all.



## Students of the Week

Our winners from last week - Lara, Daniel, Reis, Kemari and Seren - were invited to meet with Mr Harrison during Advisory time on Monday to receive their certificates. They were nominated by their teachers for displaying the Academy Values of Work Hard; Be Kind; Have Integrity.

Congratulations to all our winners. Here is Lara, proudly displaying her certificate.



## Kath Fry Challenge

Ms Riches, Subject Leader of PE and Ms Lees, Subject Leader for Health and Social Care and Childcare took a group of 8 Year 10 girls to participate in the annual inter-school competition – the Kath Fry Challenge – this weekend. Departing from school on Friday morning and returning on Sunday afternoon, the girls were amazing representatives of Dixons and staff at the Ghyll Head Centre all commented on how well behaved and polite they were. We are incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves and their efforts in the competition.

Here is an account of their time there from Ms Riches:

**DAY 1** of the Kath Fry Challenge started with the evening night walk. This walk included our 8 students navigating using a set of picture cards, a map and a compass through the wooded area just outside the Ghyll Head site. With headtorches, the 8 Year 10 students set off on this 3 mile walk, overcoming many fears to solo navigate back to the Ghyll Head outdoor centre. Being the only school group this weekend completing the full walk, they started their quest for the Kath Fry Challenge trophy in style.

**DAY 2** was to be the most challenging day yet for many of our students, with the challenge to reach the summit of the Old Man of Coniston, which is 2635ft high! With backpacks packed with layers and waterproofs, the students headed off on their 6 mile, 5 hour hike to the summit. To say this was an easy task would be a lie, these students had to grit through the steep climbs, gale force winds (up to 30mph), and freezing cold rain to push to the top. Our students showed huge resilience to overcome their own difficulties and complete this epic challenge, but were rewarded with maximum points once again for their teamwork, motivation and resilience throughout the day.



After drying off, and not quite enough time for the students to have their desired nap, the girls were now ready for tea which was followed by the evening activity; the egg drop challenge. The challenge, to throw the egg off the top of the climbing wall, without it breaking. The students were given a few materials, and 30 minutes to find the best solution to protect their egg on its journey or plummet down the climbing wall. After lots of discussion the students used balloons and a paper bag to attempt to create a flying egg. The result, 95 out of 100 points, as the egg only has a small crack in the shell. Great effort and thinking skills from all.

**DAY 3** was the final day of the Kath Fry Challenge, and the final weekend in which 12 different high schools from the borough of Manchester have attended to complete challenges to win the Kath Fry trophy, which is climbing pic on wood (very cool)! On the final day, students selected as many challenges as they wanted, to help them gain as many points as possible. Despite two days of walking, to my surprise the girls chose another walk, where they navigated once again alone, using just a map and a compass around the different check points and back to the centre. They completed the raft building challenge on Lake Windermere, using the raft to paddle to the other side of the lake (which did not capsize), as well as 4 other team challenges, Swamp Walkers, Minefield Maze, Fire Making and the Leaky Pipe. Only dropping points from the leaky pipe as the water fired out of all 14 holes on the pipe, by the end of the day, the girls had gained 760 points! They were now all ready for the journey back to Manchester, having given their all, showed resilience and demonstrated fantastic teamwork all weekend - along with showing our school values at all times throughout the trip; Work Hard, Have Integrity and Being Kind. Now all that is left is to see the final scores of the weekend. But whatever the result, the students gave 100% and gained many skills and learnt many life lessons on the way.



Thanks to all the team at Ghyll Head outdoor education centre for what was a superb weekend for our students. We will be back!

## Coffee Morning

You are invited to our next coffee morning which will take place on Wednesday 7th February, 8.15-9.15am, with the focus on National Apprenticeship Week. If you would like to attend, please complete and submit the consent sent on PA Connect before Tuesday 6th February.

## Academy Production: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

Don't forget to get your tickets for our academy production next week! On Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th, our incredibly talented students will be performing in our production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' and we have no doubt that it will be amazing!

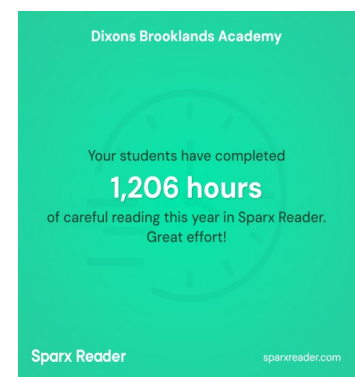
Tickets are on sale from reception priced £3.00. Please remember that children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



## English: Sparx Reader

Well done to last week's top 3 Sparx Readers - Mohammad AK and Mercy R in Year 7 and Lexie H in Year 8, plus a special mention to Robert B, Year 7 for the most progress made last week.

Robert kept up his reading as he is amongst this week's top readers along with Mercy R in Year 7 and Lexie H in Year 8. Well done to all - keep it up!



Please support your child to read by reminding them to read for 30 minutes a week.

## Year 7 Prefects

Year 7 students were asked to submit a letter of application to be a prefect last week. We are looking forward to reading all of these letters to choose the best candidates to join the Student Leadership Team as a Prefect. There will be a student vote next week to choose Head Prefects.

## Spanish

The Spanish department are celebrating the hard work of their students by awarding certificates in class to those demonstrating our school values - Work Hard, Have Integrity, Show Kindness. Ask your child about their Spanish lesson - they may have a certificate lurking at the bottom of their bag!



## Basketball

### Basketball Tournament

We are proud to highlight the remarkable dedication and sportsmanship displayed by our school basketball team (under-16s) in the recent tournament on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Although the final score may not have been what we'd been hoping for, suffering a 44-20 loss to Manchester Enterprise Academy, our team's performance showcased their hard work and commitment to excellence.



The students' participation in these tournaments serves as a reminder that success is not solely measured by wins and losses, but by growth, resilience and character development that emerges from each challenge.

We look forward to cheering them on in their future games and celebrating their achievements together.

### Basketball After-School Club: Players of the Week

Zach and Camron received our after-school Basketball Player of the Week this week. Their hard work and dedication exemplify the qualities we strive to instil in all our student-athletes. Well done and keep up the fantastic work!



## Apprenticeship Fair

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, a number of our Year 11 students will be attending an apprenticeship recruitment event at the Forum. Our students have been invited to the event by our local MP, Mike Kane.

We look forward to sharing details of the day with you in our next newsletter.

## Overseas trips

If your child had applied for a place on the 2025 Ski Trip to Italy, you should be notified before half term if they have been successful in securing a place. Numbers are limited, so for those not allocated a place will be placed on a reserve list. Please remember that behaviour, attendance, punctuality and average effort in lessons forms part of the criteria for selection. You will not see a payment item for 2025 Ski Trip on ParentPay until you have been notified that your child has been offered a place and you return a consent to say you accept the place.

We also have a number of students signed up for the Sports Tour to Amsterdam in June 2024 which promises to be an exiting opportunity to see a fantastic part of the world and take part in sports fixtures with local school teams. If your child has a place on this trip, please remember to make regular instalments against the balance; full payment must be made by 3rd May.



## Brooklands Library

We are lucky enough to have Brooklands Public Library on our doorstep, so here is an overview of some of the amazing events and activities they offer:

### Weekly:

**Tiny Tots and Toddler Time:** On Mondays during term time only, 11.00am - 12.00pm, for families with a child under 5. Join in for stories, songs, rhymes and crafts.

**Drop-In for Basic ICT Support:** Wednesdays, 2.00-4.00pm

**Lego Club:** Saturdays, 10.00am - 12.30pm

**Coffee Day:** As part of their Age Friendly offer, each Tuesday complimentary refreshments (tea, coffee, biscuits) are on offer to visitors between 10.00am and 12.30pm and 2.00-4.30pm. There is also a selection of board games for customers to use during this day.

### Monthly:

**Booky Brooky Brew Stop:** Visit on Friday 23rd February and tea, coffee and biscuits are on offer to all customers.

**Reading Club:** Adult reading club meet on the last Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday 28th February, 6.30-7.30pm. New members always welcome, light refreshments included.

### Special Events:

**Winter Warmer:** Keep warm and cosy during the winter months; help yourself to a cup of tea or coffee.

**Baby Rhyme Time Session:** Friday 16th February, 10.30-11.00am - for all non-walking babies and their grown ups.

**Free Movie Screening:** Wednesday 21st February, 3.00pm. Free popcorn and drink included.

**Free Crafting:** Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February. Free crafting sessions during opening hours.

Please note, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult to all library activities.

For more information, please see a member of the Library staff or email [brooklandslibrary@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:brooklandslibrary@manchester.gov.uk)



### Opening Hours

<b>Monday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 5.00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 5.00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 8.00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Closed	
<b>Friday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 5.00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 5.00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Closed	

## Dates for your Diary: January/February 2024

<b>Monday 5th February</b>	Year 8 HPV immunisations
<b>Tuesday 6th February</b>	Year 8 HPV immunisations
<b>Wednesday 7th February</b>	8.15-9.15am: Coffee Morning: National Apprenticeships Week 3.00pm: KS3 Girls Football Fixture at MEA 7.00pm: DBK'S Musical Production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'
<b>Thursday 8th February</b>	8.30am: Year 11 Visit to Apprenticeship Fair at The Forum 3.20pm: Students finish for half-term break ( <i>return Monday 19th February</i> ) 7.00pm: DBK'S Musical Production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'
<b>Friday 9th February</b>	School Closed to students: Staff Training
<b>Monday 19th February</b>	School reopens for Term 4
<b>Monday 26th February</b>	Year 11 Mock Exams (over a 2-week period)
<b>Tuesday 27th February</b>	Year 11 Oxford University Visit
<b>Thursday 29th February</b>	3.00pm: KS4 Girls Football Fixture at Wright Robinson Sports College